

LARAMIE REGION Newsletter



OCTOBER 2016

"Conserving Wildlife - Serving People"

Former UW professor inducted into WY Outdoor Hall of Fame

Join us and celebrate

The Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame in Cody, Wyoming

When: October 22, 2016

Where: Buffalo Bill Center of the West, 720 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Time: 5:30 p.m. cocktails

- 6 p.m. dinner
- 7 p.m. awards ceremony

Tickets:

- Single Tickets \$40
- Table of 8 - \$280

Purchase tickets online at:

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Get-Involved/Contests-and-Awards/Outdoor-Hall-of-Fame>

Come and honor inductees:

- Dr. Stanley Anderson (posthumously)
- Mark Bruscano
- Dr. David Love (posthumously)
- Delaine Roberts

Call (307) 777-4540 for more information and questions.



A former University of Wyoming professor who founded the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit will be inducted into the Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame this month.

The late Dr. Stanley Anderson is one of four who will join 49 past inductees during a ceremony scheduled Oct. 22 at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, 720 Sheridan Ave., in Cody. Dinner is scheduled at 6 p.m., with the awards ceremony to follow at 7 p.m.

The Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame was established in 2004 by then-Gov. Dave Freudenthal to celebrate individuals who have shown leadership and vision related to conserving wildlife, habitat or the heritage of hunting and fishing.

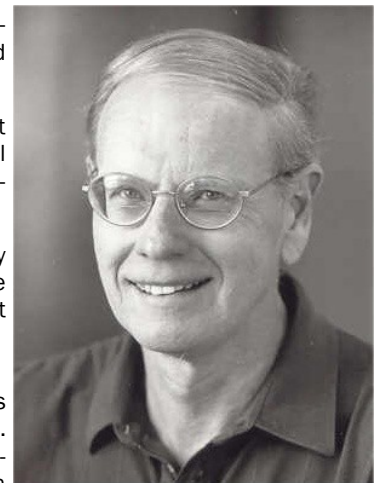
Anderson moved to Wyoming full time in 1980 to take a position as a professor in the Department of Zoology and Physiology at UW. While there, he helped launch a new endeavor – the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. The unit established a formal partnership among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and UW to conduct important, applied wildlife research.

Anderson and the students he mentored have made lasting contributions with research on conserving the endangered Wyoming toad; reintroducing the black-footed ferret; on big game migration; on how changing landscapes affect nongame birds; and on energy development's effects on pronghorn and mule deer. His contributions also led to changes benefiting wildlife, such as the use of markers on transmission lines to decrease bird collisions; population estimation techniques for raptors in the state; and habitat delineation.

During his career, Anderson advised or co-advised 100 graduate students, and he wrote 200 scientific articles and several books. His work appeared in journals ranging from *The Auk* to the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. He also wrote or co-wrote multiple editions of three textbooks that have been used widely in the field of wildlife management, as well as books on the prairie falcon, and forest and range-land birds of the United States. Anderson led the co-op unit until his death in 2005.

Anderson was one of the first avian ecologists to study bird-habitat relations using multivariate statistical techniques. Throughout his career, a special interest in habitat selection guided his research and his training of students. In his later years, he focused increasingly on endangered species and made significant contributions to solving problems confronting black-footed ferrets and greater sage grouse.

"Each of the inductees has not only made the outdoors a priority, but has consistently invested time, hard work and considerable personal resources into making Wyoming a better place," said Scott Talbott, director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. "We congratulate the inductees and their families. Game and Fish and our partners look forward to honoring them in October, and I hope you'll join us."



It's finally hunting season!



Happy antelope hunters Rob Ballantine, Erich Gaedeke and Chris Venker harvested nice bucks in hunt area 47 near Medicine Bow.



Good game meat care

A family of hunters from Colorado easily filled their doe antelope tags in the Spring Creek area west of Saratoga. By immediately skinning the carcass, keeping it clean and cooling the meat, they will have the best meat on the table. Hunters are reminded that dirt, heat and moisture are the three major causes of game meat spoilage in the field. (Photo by Biff Burton)

Hunters can help fight Chronic Wasting Disease in Wyoming

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a fatal disease that impacts deer, elk and moose and has been documented across much of the state. The Game and Fish Department is reminding hunters that they play a significant role in monitoring the further spread of this disease and providing valuable information for managing CWD.

CWD testing is used to determine distribution and prevalence rates in cervids - elk, deer and moose. It also can inform further management actions. There are several ways to get your harvested animal tested. Hunters can take a harvested animal to a check station for a CWD sample. Harvested animals can also be taken to a WGFD regional office. Results are usually available online at wgfd.wyo.gov within three weeks.

If you want results within 10 working days, go to the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab in Laramie and pay a \$30 fee for testing (307) 766-9925.



Reminder to hunters: Baiting big game is illegal



Unethical hunters sometimes resort to illegal methods to increase their chances of harvesting bulls, such as baiting with salt and sweet feed. It is illegal to place bait for big game and knowingly hunt big game animals over bait. Hunters in the Hog Park area of the Sierra Madre Mountains found the elk bait shown above and reported it to Saratoga Game Warden Biff Burton. The blocks of salt and loose minerals were illegally placed by a hunter to lure bull elk to an easy kill. (Photo by Biff Burton)

Pheasant season opens, many hunting opportunities

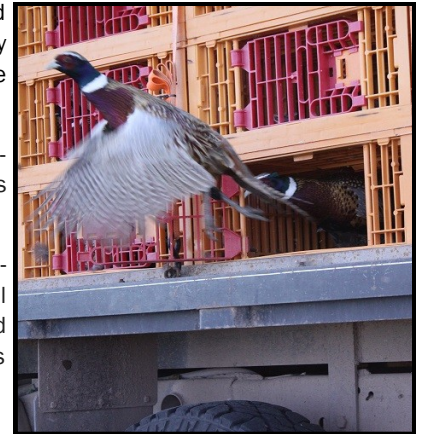
The Springer Special Pheasant Hunt begins Oct. 20 and runs through Nov. 4. Two dates, Oct. 22 and Oct. 30, are reserved for youth under 18. Pheasants are stocked each day for the special 16-day season. Openings may be available each day and hunters can sign up on the stand-by list at the check station.

The Glendo hunt runs Nov. 5 through Dec. 31. Youth-only hunts are held Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27. Permits are required to hunt each Friday, Saturday and Monday in November. Sale of leftover permits begins on Oct. 25 at wgfd.wyo.gov.

The regular pheasant season opens Saturday, Nov. 5. Two new walk-in areas were added in south-east Wyoming this year, including area 51 in Platte County and area 24 in Goshen County. Birds will be stocked at the Springer and Table Mountain WHMAs, Glendo State Park, walk-in areas 20, 23 and 51 in Platte County, 19, 24, 29 and 63 in Goshen County, and 21 and 34 in Laramie County. Birds will be stocked twice a week until the supply runs out.

Hunters are reminded that in addition to appropriate licensing, the \$12.50 pheasant special management permit is required for all ages for the Springer and Glendo hunts. A state park permit is also required for the Glendo hunt locations other than the County Line area.

Additional information on pheasant hunting and maps of the walk-in areas can be found at wgfd.wyo.gov/regulations. Hunters can call the Game and Fish at (307) 777-4600 for more information.



Hunter charged for taking yearling bear cub

An inexperienced hunter harvested a black bear cub. The hunter thought the cub was a much larger bear at the time only to discover it was a yearling bear cub.

The photo depicts the actual size of the cub, obvious by the relative comparison. The Airedale at left weighs about 70 pounds and is the approximate size of a yearling cub.

The remorseful hunter was charged with taking a cub, and his bear was confiscated. (Photo by Biff Burton)



Tips sought in three poaching cases

The Game and Fish Department is seeking tips on the following three cases.:

- A buck mule deer was killed along Iron Mountain Road southwest of Chugwater most likely in the early morning hours of Sept. 22. Only the head was taken.
- The carcasses of a doe and fawn pronghorn were discovered along Forest Service Road 726 south of Interstate 80 in the Pole Mountain area on Sept. 25. No meat was removed from either carcass. The animals were killed sometime after 9:30 a.m.
- Four big game carcasses were found in a dumpster in an alley in the 1500 block of Taft Avenue in Cheyenne. All four were completely skinned and the heads were missing. Portions of

the meat were removed from each animal. The carcasses were abandoned in the dumpster sometime between the night of Sept. 24 and 9 a.m. Sept. 25.

The Stop Poaching Tip Line at 1-877-WGFD-TIP (1-877-943-3847) allows informants to provide tips concerning any poaching cases or illegal hunting activities. Tips may also be reported online at <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>. Informants can choose to remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward for information leading to an arrest.



Dogs harass, kill wildlife throughout Laramie Region

Warden Jason Sherwood investigated a pronghorn that had been killed by a dog at the east edge of Laramie. The dog's owner stated she had been working with their family Labrador retriever to stop it from chasing wildlife and "thought she was good." While the family walked the dog, off-leash, it chased down a pronghorn fawn and killed it with what appeared to be a single bite to the top of the head before they could do anything about it. Unfortunately, a frequent occurrence this month.

Warden Kristen DaVanon also investigated a 25" buck mule deer that was killed by a dog on Sandy Beach at Glendo Reservoir. (Photo by Jason Sherwood.)



Angler caught in a lie without a license in Medicine Bow

Warden Jason Sherwood cited and attended an arraignment for a Nebraska man he and Warden Brinegar had caught fishing without a license in a remote area near Medicine Bow Peak. When contacted, the man lied about having purchased a fishing license just before their backpacking trip, and then leaving it in his car at the trailhead. To top it off, he then gave the warden a false date of birth when he was asked about his identity. After Sherwood phoned into dispatch to (unsuccessfully) verify the license and his identity, the man admitted to the violations and gave his correct identification information. He was charged with fishing without a license and interference with a peace officer. In court, he was very apologetic and pleaded guilty to both counts. He was then fined \$220 for fishing without a license and \$300 (\$150 in fines and court costs and \$150 to the victims' compensation fund) for the interference charge.

New regional construction benefit hunters and wildlife



New check station at Springer

Good news for Springer Pheasant hunters this year. Hunters will be greeted with a new check station at the Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area this year.

Updated electrical wiring and removal of the aging travel trailer will make the check station safer for both hunters and staff. The new building is designed to improve customer service by making check-in more efficient and giving hunters shelter from the weather while waiting.

Fence protects aspens

To keep the wildlife and livestock off aspen stands in the Platte Valley, volunteers and Laramie Region personnel completed the installation of approximately 3,500 feet of steel jack fence. This fence should remain in place for four more years while the local biologist completes habitat assessments.



Hawk Springs walleye

Laramie Region fisheries managers are pleased with the results of walleye sampling at Hawk Springs Reservoir. There were good numbers of 12-inch and 16-inch fish, with the largest walleye measuring 23 inches and weighing nearly five pounds. Overall, walleye are in good body condition and are not as skinny as they were the past couple of years. Black crappie numbers also looked good with the largest at 12 inches. Trap nets yielded plenty of smaller crappie and shad that provide forage for the walleye.



River restoration projects underway

Construction started on two Encampment River stream projects in September. The Encampment River – Oddfellows Fish Habitat Enhancement (photo above at left) entails improving trout habitat adjacent to a Bureau of Land Management campground along 1,600 linear feet of the river. Two miles downstream from Oddfellows, the Encampment River – Cherokee/Wagoner Diversion project is replacing two cobble push-up dams with fish-passage-friendly grade control structures along 1,700 linear feet of channel. Construction of both projects will be completed in early October. (Photos by Christina Barrineau)



Wildfire aftermath poised to benefit

The Beaver Creek fire in Carbon County burned a mosaic of brush and beetle-killed timber in the Big Creek area of Wyoming.

The fire will benefit wildlife habitat in big game summer and winter ranges. On the day the roads were opened in this area, Saratoga Game Warden Biff Burton observed deer, elk, small mammals and numerous birds adjacent to the burned areas. (Photo by Biff Burton)



Wildlife education: Plenty of fall fun

Fall is a busy time of year for wildlife education programs. Recent programs included (clockwise from top photo at left: the Wyoming Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Celebration in Cheyenne, the Laramie County Cowbells Ag Expo, a stream trailer demonstration for members of the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems, teaching preschoolers with Little Laramie Hikers about animal tracks and scat and a fishing trip to Mirror Lake for first grader students from the University of Wyoming Lab School.



Rare sightings and stories abound in region this autumn

Fighting moose locked for a lifetime and after



Warden Kenneda received a call from an elk hunter concerning two moose heads that he had found and wanted Interstate Game Tags for them. Kenneda followed the hunters into the location and found the two large Bull Moose that died during combat. Both moose were trophies, and the hunter was happy to have them issued to him. His plan is to have them mounted in a fashion the way that he had found them. The smaller of the two bulls was measured at 47 ¼" across and the other was 51", a find of a lifetime. (Photo by Kenneda).

Albino fawns spur double takes



Cheyenne resident Lars Story spotted these twin pronghorn fawns along Round Top Road, north of the Air Force base property, south of Horse Creek.

Mischievous mink



Wardens Kenneda, Renteria and Sherwood observed a mink at the Laramie regional office. It was undetermined how or why the mink was at the regional office but the little critter was getting into quite a bit of trouble. The fish division had just returned from a netting operation and the mink was interested in the fish smell of the nets. After running around the office attempting to get the mink into a small animal trap, it was soon chased into a kennel. The mink was safely moved to the Laramie River several miles to the south. The mink provided a short break in the monotony of a paperwork day at the regional office. (Photo by Kenneda)

Snacking bear

Resident Charlie Farthing called Warden Blajszczak in early September to report a black bear eating crab apples out of his tree in his front yard. Farthing described a juvenile black bear (small in size). Wardens Blajszczak and Todd decided to set a trap for the black bear, because of small children that live there. The morning the wardens set the trap the bear wandered away and caused no more problems.



Mountain lion threatens stock

A mountain lion threatened horses and dogs at a home east of Saratoga in September. The following morning, the lion was perched in a tree on the property and the owner feared that his family was in danger. He shot the lion and called Saratoga Game Warden Biff Burton to report the incident.

The teeth and good body condition suggest the four-year-old female mountain lion was healthy. Warden Burton collected biological data to be used in for population management decisions. (Photo by Biff Burton)

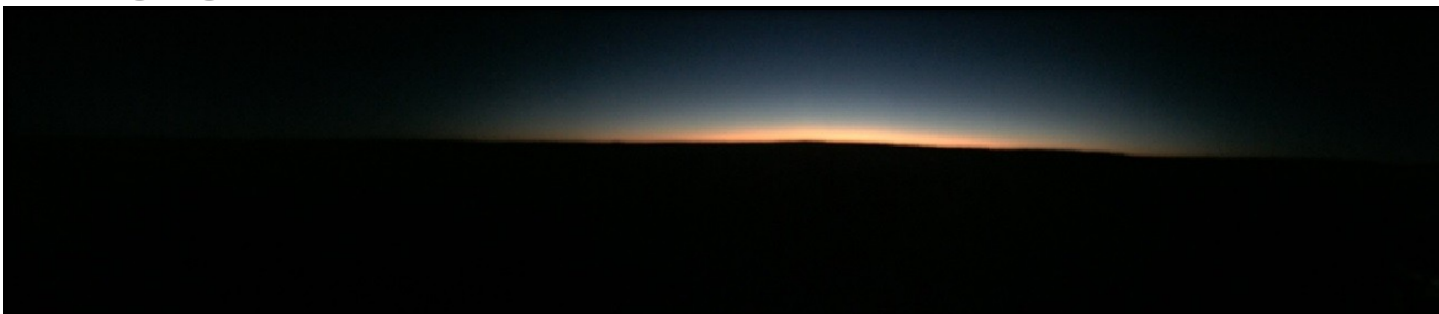
Laramie Farmers' Market

The Laramie Habitat and Access crew attended the Friday night farmers market to educate the public on wildlife friendly fences.

Habitat and Access Crew Leader Micah Morris educated (or perhaps entertained) kids on fishing as well with his question, "Which side of the fish has the most scales?" The answer: "The outside."



Changing sunsets



In September, with workload increasing and daylight diminishing, spectacular views are witnessed. After working in the Laramie range most of the day, Medicine Bow Game Warden Jordan Winter captured this panorama photograph as the sunlight was diminishing on the Shirley Basin horizon. Great shot, Jordan.

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